

estate go toward providing scholarships for Circleville High School students. This act certainly reveals Judge Ammer's generous and giving nature and his desire to help other Circleville natives succeed.

In tribute to Judge Ammer, who has been a true role model for so many of us in Ohio, my wife Fran and I say thank you. Judge Ammer was a kind human being who left an unbelievable print on the lives of so many countless people who he touched. He truly helped people. He changed lives. He made a difference. We all miss him. We miss him dearly. He will always be remembered by his beloved community.

#### TRIBUTE TO DELBERT LATTA

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this afternoon I pay tribute to a dear friend and beloved Ohioan, a man who has been a great public servant for the last half century, a man who I served with in the House of Representatives for a number of years. I am talking about Representative Delbert Latta. Representative Delbert Latta devoted 30 years of distinguished service to Ohio's 5th Congressional District in the House of Representatives. In his honor, earlier this year, President George Bush signed into law a bill that renamed the Bowling Green Ohio Post Office the Delbert L. Latta Post Office Building. This is a well-deserved tribute to a man who inspires all around him to strive to be a better public servant.

This afternoon I will take a few minutes to explain to my colleagues why Del is so revered by the citizens of the 5th District and all the citizens of Ohio. Del was raised in McComb, OH. He graduated from McComb High School and later worked in a shoestore and put himself through Ohio Northern University from where he received his undergraduate and then his law degree.

Del practiced law in Bowling Green for several years before he successfully ran for an Ohio State Senate seat. After serving three terms in the Ohio State Senate, Del Latta decided to serve his community at the Federal level and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1958.

Before retiring from the House of Representatives in 1989, constituents of Ohio's 5th District showed Del their appreciation by electing him and reelecting him 15 times. He was the dean of the Ohio Republican delegation and as dean of the delegation was deeply respected for the leadership role he played for fellow Ohio Representatives as well as for the party. He was the person to whom, frankly, we all went.

I remember when I was first elected in 1982. I remember driving north to Bowling Green and going to see Del in his office and talking to him about committee assignments. I told him I wanted to be on the Judiciary Committee if that were possible. I remember Del sitting behind his desk talking to me about that and telling me he would see what he could do about it. It

was not too long after that I was on the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives. Del was the person you went to. Del was the person you went to for advice, for counsel, and to get things done.

Del served as leader of the Rules Committee. Del was the ranking Republican in all the House on the Budget Committee. Del was not only recognized as a key leader of the Republican Party, he was a consensus builder who also earned the respect of Members on both sides of the aisle. The Honorable Democrat Senator and Representative Claude Pepper, of Florida, had this to say about Del:

Del's conduct as a Member of the [Rules] Committee and a Member of the House has exemplified the best and noblest traditions of this House. His integrity has been exemplary. His kindness, gentleness and graciousness of manner have endeared him to all of his colleagues. I shall always honor the service Del Latta has rendered to the Rules Committee, to the Budget Committee and the House because what he did, he did as an able, honorable patriotic American.

Del Latta had a significant impact on so many pieces of legislation and events over his 30-year tenure in the House. One notable example is the leadership he demonstrated during Watergate, but perhaps he is best well-known as a champion of balanced budgets and fiscal responsibility. In 1981, Del spearheaded President Reagan's economic recovery program in the House by sponsoring and helping to pass the Gramm-Latta bill. This bill is often cited as the single most influential measure in stimulating America's economic recovery in the 1980s. Del Latta was there. Del Latta led. It was Del Latta who got it done.

Expressing his admiration for Del's humility and work ethic, the Honorable Chip Pashayan, Jr., of California, said this about a dinner experience he had with Del after the passage of this momentous bill that bears Del Latta's name.

No gloating, no bragging, no brandishing. To [Del] Gramm-Latta was just another bill, just another day's work for the American people. . . . As usual, we finished dinner by 8:30 or 9 p.m. because Del had to get back to his office to do some constituent work. No constituency ever had a harder working Member that I ever saw.

I could not agree more. In 1982, when I first came to the House of Representatives, as I said, Del was instrumental in teaching me the ropes. What I admired most about Del was his ability to work with an unwavering commitment and passion for his constituents. He never forgot who sent him to Washington. He never forgot who he worked for. In everything he did, you could see how much he cared for the people he represented, the people of northwest Ohio. He understood how much he cared about our great country.

People have always come first for Del Latta. It is what drives him. He has said his greatest satisfaction comes from helping people find solutions to their problems, whether it is big prob-

lems or small problems, helping people find solutions to their problems, especially problems they could not solve on their own.

At his retirement Del said this:

Being a representative [of Ohio's 5th district] has given me and members of my family the opportunity to make untold thousands of wonderful friendships which we shall always treasure. I will also cherish the many friendships I have made over the years with my congressional colleagues.

And to be sure, Del Latta has not finished giving of himself, certainly not. To this day, he continues to do everything he can for his community. From local businessmen to neighborhood schoolchildren, Del Latta is there for them.

The dedication of the Bowling Green Post Office in Del's name—a post office that Del once helped secure funds to build—is simply a reminder that although it has been 15 years since he has retired from the Congress, Del has continued to work tirelessly for his community. The renaming of this post office, in many ways, is a symbol—a great symbol—of the civic spirit Del stood for as a U.S. Representative and still stands for today.

So I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Del for this great honor. He has done so much for the Fifth District, for the State of Ohio, and for our Nation. I have the highest regard for the example Del has set as a leader and public servant. My wife Fran and I cherish his friendship, and we wish him and his wife Rosemary and their children Bob and Rose Ellen and their families all the best in their future.

Del Latta is a great man. I said that he has worked tirelessly for his constituents, and it is always fun to watch him do that. But there has been one thing for me that has been even more fun, and that is to watch Del Latta with his grandchildren and to hear Del Latta talk about his grandchildren because this is a man who is also a great family man; he has never lost sight of the importance of family.

So, Del Latta, congratulations. You are a man who has served our country well. You are a great family man. You are a good friend. We appreciate all you have done for our country.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FITZGERALD. I thank the Chair.

# TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to report to my colleagues in the Senate the death of a former Member of this body, U.S. Senator Paul Simon from Illinois. Senator Simon died earlier today. He was 75 years old. This comes as a great shock to all of us who knew and loved Paul Simon.

Earlier today, I had written him a get well note and sent him some flowers. It was announced a couple of days ago that he was going into the hospital for heart bypass surgery and also to have a leaky heart valve replaced. Apparently something happened during the surgery—I don't know what—but Senator Simon, unfortunately, passed away, and we all send our love and our prayers to his wife Patty, his children, his grandchildren, and to all his colleagues at Southern Illinois University where he will be missed greatly.

Senator Simon's first wife, Jeanne, died a few years ago. I also had the privilege of knowing her. May God rest her soul as well.

Senator Simon was a nationally known figure, primarily from his having been a candidate for the Presidency in 1988. In Illinois, he was truly a giant for many decades—three or four decades or more. He served both in the State house of representatives and the Illinois State Senate, as well as in the U.S. Congress and then later in the U.S. Senate. He is thought to be the only person from Illinois to have served in both houses of the Illinois Legislature and then in both Houses of Congress.

He was also in the late sixties and early seventies the Lieutenant Governor from Illinois. On his last reelection race for the U.S. Senate, he won by over a million votes, with 65 percent. I believe he had the highest plurality of anybody running that year.

He was an extraordinary figure, extremely popular, and extremely well respected, especially for his character and integrity. Many people may have disagreed with Senator Simon's policy positions on a variety of issues, but no one ever questioned his ethics and integrity. In fact, those who served with him in the Senate, I am sure, remember his famous bow ties. Those bow ties almost became a symbol of ethics and integrity in the State of Illinois because of Senator Simon. He was a remarkable man.

He started in the early 1950s—maybe before that; maybe in the late forties—as a newspaper editor in southern Illinois. He was about 19 years of age when he was asked to take over a troubled newspaper in Troy, IL, in Madison County. He actually revived the newspaper by going after a corrupt gambling cabal in Madison County. He ultimately put together a string of some 13 newspapers that he sold in the 1960s, and then went from journalism into politics and government service; he never looked back.

He had numerous legislative accomplishments in the U.S. Senate, including the Direct Student Loan Program, the job training partnership amendments, and many other initiatives across a wide spectrum of issues. Of course, he was very accomplished in the Illinois Legislature as well.

Some people think they have done a lot when they have read a book. Senator Simon probably wrote as many books as most people have read. He is the author of at least 21 books, and maybe more than that. He had 55 honorary degrees. As I mentioned, he was a candidate for President in 1988.

One of the most astonishing things about Paul Simon was that his ethics and integrity were not just an act. I think a lot of the professional politicians maybe didn't always appreciate him in Chicago, for example. They maybe thought his bow tie and his constant efforts to maintain the highest standards in Illinois and the Federal Government were an act. But you could see after he retired from the Senate when he was offered, reportedly by foreign governments, to become a high paying lobbyist—I think one foreign government offered him over \$600,000 a year to become their lobbyist, and he was offered a variety of lucrative positions. He turned all that down so he could return to Makanda, IL, down in the southern part of the State where he came from so he could teach at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and be a professor. He turned down higher paying professorships elsewhere in the country. He wanted to come back home and be at Southern Illinois University.

He put together a wonderful public policy institute with some others there, including Mike Lawrence, who was the press secretary to our former Gov. Jim Edgar in Illinois.

I was in the area down by SIU this past summer. I had dinner with Mike Lawrence and he was telling me how hard it was to keep up with Paul Simon. Even at his age, he was keeping a remarkable schedule. So it came as a great surprise to hear of his passing today. It is a great loss. We will all miss him.

He was nothing but kind to me. Even though I was a member of the opposite party, Senator Simon last called me when I announced I would be retiring from the Senate. He was always courteous and kind in offering to help everyone he could.

I remembered from long ago reading a column that was written about Paul Simon, which I thought was a fabulous testament to this wonderful man. The column was written in the Chicago Tribune on February 28, 1997. It was by R. Bruce Dold, entitled "In Praise of a Decent Former Politician." This column is written by a journalist who had covered Senator Simon for many years, including following him around on his election campaigns and seeing his interaction with people all over the State of Illinois. This reporter wrote

about how he was amazed that Senator Simon would come into a small town and say hi to everybody, and he would actually know the names of their children and how their grandfather was doing.

Senator Simon had a genuine affection for people. He was a tireless worker. He held over 600 town meetings in his two terms in the Senate, which is a very tough pace to keep up with for any of us in the Senate. He was a remarkable man.

I ask unanimous consent that this commentary written by R. Bruce Dold be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. FITZGERALD. I conclude by saying that Senator Paul Simon was a credit to the State of Illinois and a credit to the Senate, and we will miss him. God rest his soul and may God bless his widow and family.

## EXHIBIT 1

[From the Chicago Tribune, Feb. 28, 1997]  
IN PRAISE OF A DECENT FORMER POLITICIAN

(By R. Bruce Dold)

One of my best lessons in southern Illinois politics came with Paul Simon's 1984 campaign for the U.S. Senate, the one where he dusted Sen. Charles Percy and made amends for his one big political loss, the 1972 bid for governor.

Simon planned to hit about 13 towns in one day, moving from Vandalia to Cairo and over to Carbondale, with a brief stop at his Makanda home to show off his Lincoln book collection to the handful of reporters with him. He'd be meandering over a few hundred miles, which normally would require a helicopter. For Simon, all it required was Joe Bob Pierce.

Joe Bob is something of a Renaissance man—an electric power lineman with a Baptist divinity school degree who can drive like a bat out of hell, that last talent being the one Simon required that day.

So the trip went like this. We would drive to the Franklin county Courthouse public square, and Simon would give a little speech, and then he would do the real campaigning. This amounted to greeting each person in the crowd by her first name and inquiring about her children and her frail grandfather, and then moving on to the next soul with a hearty "nice to see you."

Then we would pile into Joe Bob's car and he would hit triple digit m.p.h. on Rt. 142 until we barreled into the parking lot of the Saline Valley Conservancy District, where Simon would do it all over again.

And I realized by the second stop that he actually knew all of these people, and the ages of their kids, and the health status of their grandfathers.

Simon wasn't supposed to win that election but he did, in part because he swept most of Southern Illinois.

He's back home now after ending an impressive career in politics. He's believed to be the only person who ever served in the Illinois and U.S. House and Senate.

On paper, his career makes no sense. Before politics, he was a newspaper editor who shook things up in a part of Illinois that liked things calm. He was too liberal for his congressional district, too liberal for this state, too liberal for Congress. He was a bigger-government advocate in a little-government era. Didn't matter. People thought he